

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04965 251300Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W  
-----106836 261927Z /43  
R 251205Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 04965

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BENC, BBAK, SY  
SUBJECT: IRON ORE FEASIBILITY STUDY - MERHEJ BROTHERS

REF: USDOC 15444

1. RE CURRENT AGENT OF U.S. STEEL ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS (UEC), FACT THAT SARG OFFICIAL DID NOT REMEMBER UEC DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT ON UEC AGENT'S ABILITY OR INITIATIVE. IN GENERAL, SARG OFFICIALS VARY GREATLY IN THEIR COMPETITIV COMPETENCE, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR ABILITY TO RETAIN DETAILS. EMBASSY REQUESTS NAME OF UEC CURRENT AGENT SO THAT WE MAY COMMENT FURTHER.

2. RE MERHEJ BROTHERS, THEY ARE WELL-KNOWN AS BEING ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN IN SYRIA. ONE BROTHER (SAMIR) WAS ARRESTED LAST FALL IN A LARGE-SCALE ROUND-UP OF PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN, BUT NOT RPT NOT INDICTED. SAMIR WAS RELEASED SOON AFTERWARDS AND NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. IN EMBASSY OPINION, FIRM WOULD BE SUITABLE AGENT FOR UEC. SEELYE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DAMASC04965  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780350-0507  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** IRON ORE FEASIBILITY STUDY - MERHEJ BROTHERS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014